

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today delivered the following statement on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in honor of International Human Rights Day. Rep. Sanchez, who is the Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, is currently leading a Voice of Conscience campaign urging her House colleagues to call for the release of imprisoned human rights activists in Vietnam:

“Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Human Rights Day.

“Today, people around the world recognize the human rights violations that continue to occur in countries like Vietnam and China. It is also a day where we honor the men and women who sacrifice their freedom in order to fight for the freedom of others.

“At this moment, there are three individuals imprisoned in Vietnam for exercising their rights of free speech and expression. Tran Khai Thanh Thuy, Le Thi Cong Nhan, and Pham Thanh Nghien are three women democracy activists who have been denied their basic human rights by their own government, Vietnam.

“The people of America enjoy the freedom to speak and worship freely—but it is important for us to remember those who do not have the same freedoms and continue to call on governments like Vietnam to hold and respect basic human rights and urge our own government to make human rights a number one priority.”